

COMIC SCRIPT FORMAT

Adapted for use in Google Docs from various sources

By

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Notes on the script: I am making this for my own personal use as a writer and artist. It is not meant to represent any kind of industry standard, although my choices were obviously influenced by the traditional screenplay and comic script formats you can find online. I merely wanted to establish a standard for clarity purposes. To begin the example, I'll note that this paragraph here would be a good space to list contact, copyright or other information pertinent to your script. I chose Courier New font for this because it is the industry standard but I doubt that in more relaxed settings the font has an impact on the clarity of the script. Also, I added a header because personally it helps me feel like a Big Grown-up Professional Writer and because it is an industry standard. There's a reason for that: Whether your script stays digital or ends up on paper somewhere, the reader will benefit from having your title and name running along the top.

PAGE ONE

PANEL 1

The description for your art goes here. Whenever a CHARACTER appears, type his name in all caps.

CHARACTER A

Dialogue goes here. I used tab stops to create these indentations, instead of the "indent" button, so I could press "tab" and not have to move my hands from the keys to my trackpad. However, I have to go back and press "tab" to fully align the dialogue when it is more than one line, or it will look spilled over, like in these last two lines. When I find a better solution I will edit the template.

CHARACTER B (whispers)

Note how I indicated a qualifier for the lettering in this piece of dialogue. I could also have put "(small)" to get the same basic result. Those sorts of nuances obviously depend upon the rapport between the writer and artist.

PANEL 2

I'm not going to include any tips on writing in this script, only formatting. For more info on writing for graphic novels and comics, I suggest you ask the Internet.

CHARACTER A (O.P.)

"(O.P.)" stands for "Off-Panel." This is also obvious when a character does not appear in your panel description but has dialogue.

SFX

BLAM!

PANEL 3

Remember to pay attention to how many panels you are putting in a page. That's why "PAGE" titles are bolded and underlined. Numbering panels with digits (1) and pages with spelled-out numbers (ONE) also helps. A script has to generously overcompensate for the visual cues the artist will provide later.

CAPTION

That was a sound effect. Labeling a dialogue as "CAPTION" indicates narration, usually depicted in a box instead of a speech bubble on page. This includes straight narration and first-person character narration.

PANEL 4

Assume there is description here.

CHARACTER A

Also, if you want to have a speech bubble that is linked or webbed within or between panels-

PANEL 5

And here.

CHARACTER A (linked)

-Putting "(linked)" next to the relevant character name will communicate it.

PAGE TWO

NOTE: If you need to include extra direction for a certain scene or page, doing so like this would be appropriate.

PANEL 1

The conclusion.

CHARACTER A

I made this template so I wouldn't have to keep setting
the same tab stops over and over again. I
hope it is useful to you. If it isn't, I
encourage you to make your own and submit it so I have something
else to use. Just in case, I'll note here that I learned this
format from several different places online.
I don't claim ownership of any of it, if that's possible...

THE END